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# THE REFORM ADVOCATE



SYNAGOGUE, RICHMOND, V.A.

## “Jews of Richmond”

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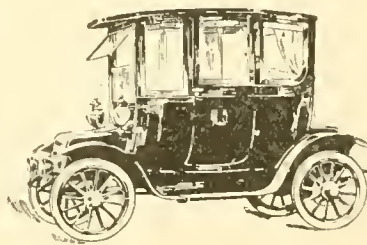
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# THE REFORM ADVOCATE.

EMIL G. HIRSCH, Editor

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

BLOCH & NEWMAN, Publishers

## HISTORY OF THE JEWS OF RICHMOND

### Their Progress and Prospects

By GASTON LICHTENSTEIN.

At the close of the Revolutionary War a handful of Jews lived in Richmond. The place itself was small, there being only a few thousand people altogether. It must be borne in mind that Williamsburg was the Capital of Virginia, at the outbreak of hostilities, and that Richmond had not yet become a town of importance. The assembly at St. John's church, in 1775, (when Patrick Henry made his memorable "Liberty or Death" speech) was held in Richmond because Williamsburg naturally did not appeal to the patriots, as a place of safety.

While the great struggle between England and the Colonies was at fever heat, a Hessian by the name of Joseph Darmstadt came to America and finally settled in Richmond. He was one of the first Jews to make a notable place for himself in the life of the city. It is strange to think that a despised Hessian, many of whom were hired by England to fight the patriots, could settle in an American community (immediately after the Revolution) and become a respected citizen.

Joseph Darmstadt was as well known for many years as the market square on which he lived. His knowledge of German enabled him to trade with the Teuton farmers who had settled beyond the Blue Ridge, in the beautiful valley region. These sons of the Fatherland used to drive their wagons to Richmond, laden with the products of "the farm, the mill, the forest and the chase."

His social disposition brought Mr. Darmstadt into the best society. Early every morning, when the citizens went to market, he would have a large coffee pot before his fireplace. On particularly cold, or wet, mornings, many of his friends partook of its contents. He prepared the beverage himself. Judges, lawyers, doctors and merchants used to repair to this coffee house and gather the news from each other. Thus the happenings of the community circulated from this agreeable center to the several families.

Joseph Darmstadt not only made a commercial success but he also became a prominent Mason. He was Treas-

urer of the Grand Lodge of Virginia and the records of the order contain several references to him. Of the other Jewish inhabitants of Richmond, prior to the inauguration of Washington as first President of the United States, probably the members of the firm of Cohen and Isaacs were best known. It may be stated that their place of business was called "the Jews' store." This phrase is copied from a newspaper of the period and occurs in an advertisement. It did not imply virulent prejudice against them, as many readers may think, because Cohen and Isaac did a large business.

In 1791, Isaiah Isaacs deeded a piece of land to Jacob I. Cohen, Israel I. Cohen, David Isaac and Moses Mordecai, Jacob I. Cohen, Jr., Simon Gratz, Aaron Levi, Moses Jacob and Levi Myers, trustees, for a cemetery. Isaiah Isaacs who deeded the tract, was a member of the firm of Cohen and Isaacs. He is buried in the old cemetery, which a few years ago was reclaimed from decay. Its location, in the lower section of the city, causes many Jewish tourists to pass it by. However unsightly the surroundings today, owing to the shifting of the city's population, the landscape in 1791 presented a different view.

Jacob I. Cohen was the partner of Isaiah Isaacs. He had no children but his brother Israel I.'s son, Jacob I. Cohen the Second, went to Baltimore from Richmond and his descendants live there at this writing. Jacob I. Cohen the Second settled in Maryland, in 1803. He had left a city where the Jews were allowed to hold office and, being imbued with the Virginian's spirit of liberty, set about to secure a repeal of Maryland's anti-Jewish laws. In 1825, a combined fight of the Jewish citizens of Baltimore succeeded in repealing the obnoxious laws. Cohen was a man of action and won the honor of being elected to the Baltimore City Council.

Twenty-nine heads of families appeared upon the roster of the Congregation "Beth Shalome," at the time of its organization in 1791. The inhabitants of Richmond had worshipped together, before this date, but the

official records of Beth Shalome began during the year 1791. These early papers were unfortunately destroyed in 1865, when the Confederates evacuated Richmond and the city was set on fire. As evidence of the existence of a communal organization, prior to 1791, the address of the Hebrew Congregations of New York, Philadelphia, Charleston and Richmond, in 1790, to George Washington may be cited. This congratulatory address to the Father of His Country and General Washington's reply are herewith appended:

"The address of the Hebrew Congregations in the cities of Philadelphia, New York, Richmond and Charleston, to the President of the United States:

"Sir—It is reserved for you to unite in affection for your character and person every political and religious denomination of men, and in this will the Hebrew Congregations aforesaid yield to no class of their fellow-citizens.

"We have hitherto been prevented by various circumstances peculiar to our situation from adding our con-

To this address the President was pleased to reply as follows:

"Answer: To the Hebrew Congregations in the cities of Philadelphia, New York, Charleston and Richmond:

"Gentlemen—The liberality of sentiment toward each other, which marks every political and religious denomination of men in this country, stands unparalleled in the history of nations.

"The affection of such a people is a treasure beyond the reach of calculation, and the repeated proofs which my fellow citizens have given of their attachment to me and approbation of my doings, form the purest source of my temporal felicity. The affectionate expressions of your address again excite my gratitude and receive my warmest acknowledgement.

"The power and goodness of the Almighty, so strongly manifested in the events of the late glorious Revolution, and his kind interposition in our behalf, have been no less visible in the establishment of our present equal government. In war He directed the sword, and in



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gratulations to those which the rest of America have offered on your elevation to the chair of the federal government. Deign, then, illustrious sir, to accept this our homage.

"The wonders which the Lord of Hosts hath worked in the days of our forefathers have taught us to observe the greatness of His wisdom and His might through the events of the late glorious revolution; and, while we humble ourselves at His footstool in thanksgiving and praise for the blessing of His deliverance, we acknowledge you, the leader of American armies, as His chosen and beloved servant. But not to your sword alone is present happiness to be ascribed; that, indeed, opened the way to freedom, but never was it perfectly secure until your hand gave birth to the Federal Constitution and you renounced the joys of retirement to seal by your administration in peace what you had achieved in war.

"To the eternal God, who is thy refuge, we commit in our prayers the care of thy precious life; and when, full of years, thou shalt be gathered unto thy people, 'thy righteousness shall go before thee,' that the Lord hath set apart the godly for Himself, whilst thy name and thy virtues will remain an indelible memorial on our minds.

"For and in behalf and under the authority of the several congregations aforesaid.

"Manuel Josephson."

"Philadelphia, December 13, 1790."

peace He has ruled in our councils. My agency in both has been guided by the best intentions and a sense of duty I owe to my country.

"And as my exertions have hitherto been amply rewarded by the approbation of my fellow-citizens, I shall endeavor to deserve a continuance of it by my future conduct.

"May the same temporal and eternal blessings which you implore for me rest upon your congregations.

"G. Washington."

This reply was preserved in the archives of Beth Shalome. The most valued probably, of many valuable documents, it shared the fate of the others in the evacuation fire of April, 1865. Beth Shalome congregation first worshipped in a building on Nineteenth street, between Franklin and Grace, but within a few years a synagogue was built on Mayo street, in which the congregation held services for more than *three quarters* of a century. The Sephardic ritual was used, as the members clung to their old style of worship. They were so-called Spanish and Portuguese Jews. Their pulpit was occupied by men who afterward became well known and whose careers form a part of the history of American Judaism. Among the names of those who officiated are those of Isaac H. Judah, Isaac Leeser, Jacques J. Lyon, Isaac Mendes de Sola, Henry S. Jacobs and George Jacobs.

Isaac Leeser, translator of the Bible from Hebrew into



English, lived in Richmond with his uncle Zalma Rehine, before he settled in Philadelphia. He read services at Beth Shalom and also indulged in literary work but Richmond offered too small a field for his energetic mind. He went to Philadelphia and began the publication of the Occident, the first Jewish magazine to appear in America. It continued its existence for a number of years and was a worthy publication. In addition to its general literary features, social news also found a place now and then. Items from Richmond are scattered through the several volumes.

Jacob Ezekiel, father of the famous sculptor Sir Moses Ezekiel, settled in Richmond during the year 1834. He was a native of Philadelphia, having been born there in 1812. On his arrival he took an active part in the conduct of the affairs of Beth Shalom. He was not connected in a ministerial capacity but his services as an officer of the congregation deserve special mention. Soon after the War Between the States, Jacob Ezekiel went to Cincinnati and lived there until his death at the

## "QUARTERLY SESSION OF CHEBRAH AHABAT ISRAEL.

"Richmond, Va., January 28th, 1841.

"Present: Myer Angle, President, in the chair; L. Rosenfeld, Treasurer; J. Gotthold, Secretary; W. Fleishman, First Deputy, and I. Rosenheim, Second Deputy, and the following members: Joseph Myers, E. Straus, A. Ancker, M. Wise, M. Mitteldorfer, Isaac Rosenheim, M. Fanduward, L. Rosenfeld, S. Rosenfeld, S. Rosenfelds, E. Rosenfeld, A. Hirsch, Sandeck, H. Rosenfield.

"After the business of the Chebrah was transacted, the members present expressed a wish to establish a synagogue for German Israelite. After considering the matter, it was

"RESOLVED, To establish a Synagogue for the German Israelites.

"RESOLVED, The President appoint a committee to lay before this Chebrah a plan how to accomplish this undertaking. The President appointed on this commit-



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advanced age of eighty-seven years. For many years, he served as Secretary of the Board of Governors, of the Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati.

The German Jews, who first came to Richmond, affiliated with the congregation Beth Shalom and were kindly received by its members; however, a difference in ritual prevented them from forming a fully sympathetic association with their Spanish and Portuguese brethren. In 1839, the German members organized a society known as the "Chebrath Ahabat Israel," and while this organization was intended for social and charitable rather than religious purposes, yet on January 28th, 1841 (after its short existence of two years), the members resolved "to establish a synagogue for the German Israelites."

About the beginning of the nineteenth century German Jews began to settle in Richmond. During the early decades, there were only a few families. Myer Angle, first President of the Beth Ahabah congregation, married in 1821. His wife was a native Richmonder, which proves that the influx began early.

As has been noted, a sufficient number of German Jews had settled in the Capital of Virginia to form an organization of their own, in 1839. This was the germ which later developed into Beth Ahabah. The newcomers from the Fatherland saw too many differences in the Sephardic ritual to feel at ease with their co-religionists of Spanish and Portuguese stock. Rev. Max J. Michelbacher preserved the records of the new organization by copying them, so that the full account of what happened in 1841 can be reproduced today.

tee Joseph Myers, I. Rosenheim, S. Rosenfeld, and E. Straus, and, on motion, he himself was added to this committee.

"Absent: M. Moonshine, Stern, Gerst, Oppenheimer, Jacobson, Harris, Guggenheimer, Lovenstein.

(Signed) "Myer Angle, President.

"J. Gotthold, Secretary."

## "CHEBRAH AHABAT ISRAEL.

"Meeting February 14, 1841.

"The committee appointed at the last meeting to propose a plan for establishing a Synagogue, reported the following:

"(1) We have succeeded in finding a place, the house called the Seminarium, on Marshall street, between Fifth and Sixth streets. The house is suitable for our purpose.

"(2) The owner of the house, Fred. Anderson, told Messrs. M. Angle and Joseph Myers he would rent the house to this Society for a yearly rent of \$225 for our purpose, and he would have the outside repairs done.

"(3) The costs of the inside arrangement of the Synagogue will be about \$500, and we recommend that this amount be paid by free-will contributions of the members of this Chebrah.

"(4) The committee laid a design of the arrangement and its estimate before the meeting, which was adopted by all present.

"The meeting adopted all the committee had proposed, and

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"RESOLVED, The house on Marshall street between Fifth and Sixth be rented and the committee have it arranged as designed for a synagogue.

(Signed) "J. Gotthold, Secretary.

"Adjourned."

"Meeting, April 10, 1841.

"Present: M. Angle, H. Rosenfeld, Louis Rosenfeld, Stern, Rosenbaum, Straus, Oppenheimer, Fanduard, H. Rosenheim, E. Rosenfeld, Joseph Myers, Moonshine, Fleishman, A. Hirsh, Mitteldorfer, S. Rosenfels, Isaac Rosenheim; J. Rosenheim, Secretary.

"After hearing the report of the Committee on Arrangement of Synagogue,

"RESOLVED, This Chebrah pay out of her own treasury the balance of all the expenses of the Synagogue and charge it to the congregation worshipping in this new Synagogue. The congregation was named "Beth Ahaba," (Hebrew title here) "house of love."

"The President appointed Isaac Rosenheim, S. Rosenfeld, Joseph Myers, Samson Rosenfels, and E. Straus, a committee to report a constitution and laws for the government of this congregation. "The Synagogue was consecrated on May 15, 1841, Shabuoth, by the Rev. J. Gotthold, officiating as minister."

Thus was Beth Ahaba brought into being. Its founders would have looked into the future with wondering eyes, if even a mental picture of the magnificent Temple on West Franklin street could have been presented to them. Rev. J. Gotthold, its first spiritual head, did not remain long with the congregation. He was rather a lay reader than a regular minister. After his departure Myer Angle read the services but the congregation needed a religious guide. The members expressed this need in a document, well worthy of preservation. It will be noted that the sons of the Fatherland were so attached to the German language that they included its study, together with that of English and religious subjects. In short, a parochial school was to be established. The document follows:

"A number of the German Israelites, residing in Richmond, see with deep sorrow that the education of their children is partially neglected, that the Religion of their forefathers is not taught to them in a manner to inculcate into their tender hearts the moral and religious feelings, and that they become not sufficiently acquainted with the history of their ancestors and the signification of their religious ceremonies:

"They are besides desirous, that their children should obtain a grammatical knowledge of the German lan-

guage, which at present they only learn by routine and without principles:

"They further think it highly important to obtain the services of a Reader, who by his learning and moral principles, will command the esteem of the congregation, whose lectures will be lessons of morality to young and old:

"They therefore resolve to unite all their energies, and besides ask the good will of all in favor with their views, in order to raise a sum sufficient to obtain the services of a Reader, who shall also be a teacher to their children in the elementary branches of an English education, in the German language, and the Religion of their fathers. The compensation ought to be commensurate with the task, and it is to be hoped that every member will act according to the importance of the cause. The contributions are set down per annum, but will be collected three-monthly."

Thirty-three names were upon the list, which brought to a realization the views expressed above. The movement for a parochial school began in January, 1846, and on the 1st of May, of the same year, Reverend Max J. Michelbacher (called from Philadelphia), took charge of the congregation. For many years he gave his best efforts toward the uplift of the Jewish community, both in secular and religious matters. When the War between the States was desolating the fair fields of Virginia, Max J. Michelbacher performed dangerous journeys to comfort wounded Jewish soldiers. He sought out Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederacy, and the various generals and secured furloughs for the Jewish troops to attend services on the holy days. In this connection, a letter from General Robert E. Lee brings one close to that stirring period:

"DILL QTS. VALLEY MT.,

29 Aug., 1864.

"Rabbi M. J. Michelbacher,

Preacher Hebrew Congregation,

House of Love, Richmond, Va.:

"Rev. Sir:

"I have just received your letter of the 23rd inst., requesting that a furlough from the 2nd to the 15th Sept., be granted to the soldiers of the Jewish persuasion in the C. S. Army, that they may participate in the approaching holy services of the Synagogue.

"It would give me great pleasure to comply with a request so earnestly urged by you, and which I know would be so highly appreciated by that class of our soldiery. But the necessities of war admit of no relaxa-

tion of the efforts requisite for its success, nor can it be known on what day the presence of every man may not be required. I feel sure that neither you or any member of the Jewish Congregation would wish to jeopardize a cause you have so much at heart by the with-



REV. M. J. MICHELbacher  
REV. J. WECHSLER                      REV. DR. A. HOFFMAN  
REV. DR. A. S. BETTELHEIM    REV. DR. A. HARRIS  
FORMER RABBIS OF "BETH AHABA."

drawal, even for a season, of a portion of its defenders. I cannot therefore grant the GENERAL furlough you desire, but must leave to individuals to make their own application to their several commanders, in the hope that they may be able to enjoy the privilege you seek for them. Should any be deprived of the opportunity of offering up their prayers according to the rites of the Church, that their penitence may nevertheless be accepted by the Most High, and their petitions answered. That your prayers for the success and welfare of our Cause may be granted by the great Ruler of the Universe, is my ardent wish.

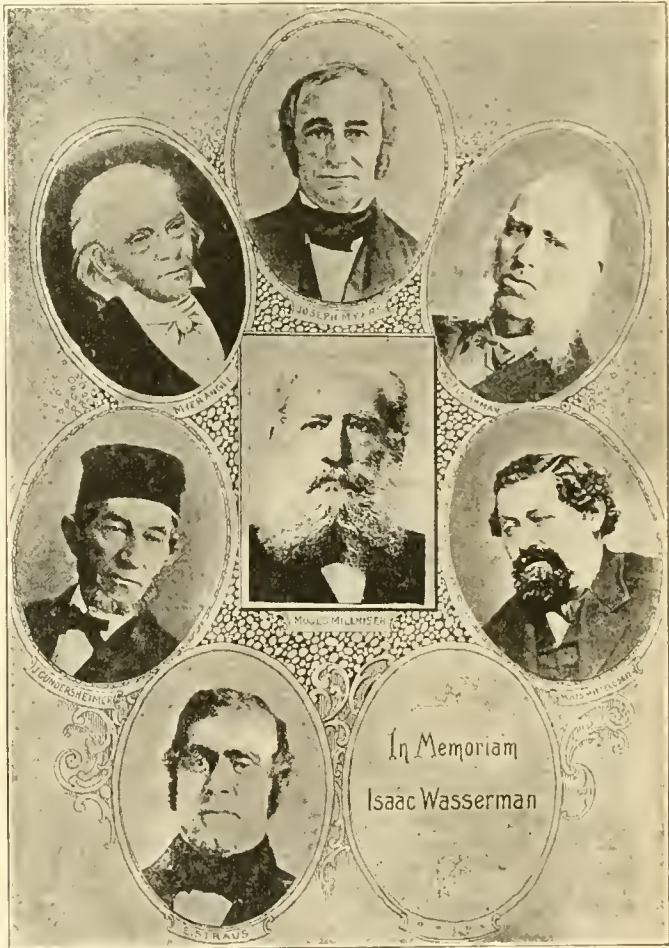
"I have the honor to be, with high esteem,  
"Your obt. servt.,  
"R. E. LEE, Gen'l. Commd."

Mrs. Miriam Michelbacher, widow of the rabbi, still survives her husband who went to his reward on January 26th, 1879. She enjoys her old age, surrounded by a family of children and grandchildren. One of her daughters, Zipporah married Sam Cohen (of the large department store known as the Cohen Company). Mrs. Sam Cohen's biography will be found under the heading of Prominent Jews of Richmond. Charles Hutzler, who received his early education at the parochial school, is the President of Beth Ahaba at the present time. His biography also appears elsewhere.

In giving an account of activities, relating to the congregations of Beth Shalome and Beth Ahaba, certain items of interest have necessarily been omitted. The thread of Richmond's history will be retraced to say first of all that both Cohen and Isaac served in the American Army, during the Revolutionary War. They earned thereby the lasting regard of their fellow citizens. Mr. E. V. Valentine, the sculptor, has been collecting for many years a staggering mass of material, relative to the history of Richmond. He has gone patiently over the old newspaper files and, among other items, has jotted down all the references to the firm of Cohen & Isaac. His work will be valuable for research workers, in many ways, whenever it appears.

Jewish citizens suffered, in common with their neighbors, when the terrible theatre fire of 1811 cast its shadow over the city. This appalling calamity claimed a number of Jewish victims. Monumental Church now stands on the spot. In 1845, Emanuel Hunt died at the age of ninety-three. The former's funeral was attended by the Governor of Virginia and other officials. Emanuel Hunt had saved a number of persons from drowning and Beth Ahaba honored him with a memorial tablet.

Among the Richmonders who enlisted in the Confederate Army, Ezekiel J. Levy stands forth prominently. He was connected from youth with the old congregation,



MYER ANGLE                      JOSEPH MYERS                      WM. FLEISHMAN  
J. GUNDERSHEIMER    MOSES MILLHISER    MOSES MITTELDORFER  
E. STRAUS    IN MEMORIAM, ISAAC WASSERMAN

FORMER PRESIDENTS OF "BETH AHABA."

Beth Shalome, and served as its Secretary when the call to arms came. On April 21st, 1861, he enlisted and rose to be Captain of the Richmond Light Infantry Blues, one of the oldest military organizations in the United States and one which today makes an impression wherever it goes. Captain Levy was born on September



15, 1833. He attended private schools in the city and then became associated in business with his father. From the grade of fifth corporal, at the outbreak of hostilities, he was promoted gradually. He participated in the campaign in West Virginia in 1861, in the seven days' fight around Richmond, in the battle of John's Island, S. C.; the battle of the Mine at Petersburg, and numerous other engagements. He was a member of the distinguished Levy family, which has furnished Richmond many prominent citizens.

William Flegenheimer, a native of Germany who took part in the unsuccessful revolution of the late 40's, landed in New York and came to Richmond ten years before Virginia left the Union. Being an unusually skilled penman, he was called upon to copy numerous documents, several of which have become historical. The Secession Convention employed him to engross the Virginia ordinance of secession. Mr. Flegenheimer also wrote the credentials of Mason and Slidell, the seizure of whom by a Yankee vessel almost brought on war between England and the United States. William Flegenheimer served a while in the Confederate Treasury Department. One of his daughters married Herbert T. Ezekiel, who has done considerable writing. A few years ago a history of the Jews of this city appeared in the Jewish Record. Mr. Ezekiel, the author, gathered together a number of interesting incidents.

At the close of the War between the States, a schism in the ranks of the German element took place and a new congregation, Beth Israel, was formed. It lasted for a few years and then the members returned to the parent fold. At the time of Beth Israel's dissolution, the following gentlemen were its officers: President, Levi Hex-



CAPT. E. J. LEVY.

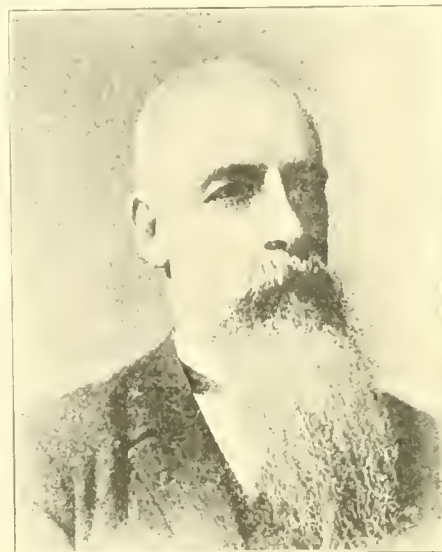
ter; Secretary, William Flegenheimer; Treasurer, Seligman Schwartz; Trustees, Samuel Binswanger, Henry Wallerstein and Joseph Kirsh.

Another Jewish element of the community, the descendants of whom have played a big part in the life of Richmond, is that which formed the Keneseth Israel congregation in 1856. A large portion of its membership was gradually absorbed by Beth Ahaba. Just as the Beth Shalom adherents lost their individuality, so has the original strength of Keneseth Israel been swallowed up in Beth Ahaba's "melting pot."

A fire crippled the efforts of the young organization, formed in 1856, and Beth Ahaba kindly offered its place of worship but the members of Keneseth Israel declined

the offer. They lifted up a temporary synagogue and a Building Committee went to work, to arrange for the erection of a permanent structure. Philip Whitlock, whose biography appears elsewhere, was an energetic member of this committee. His brother, Herman served as chairman. The other three gentlemen, through whose efforts the building came into being, were: M. Kaufman, A. Hirshberg and Simon Lichtenstein, grandfather of the writer of this history.

On Wednesday, September 1st, 1869, the sacred edifice was dedicated and continued as a place of divine



WM. FLEGENHEIMER. Photo by "Foster"

worship until circumstances demanded a removal elsewhere. A programme, printed Ferguson and Keady, has been preserved and gives the "Order of Service for the Dedication of the Synagogue of the Keneseth Israel Congregation on Mayo, near Broad Street." Then follows a list of the officers: Daniel Abram, President; Philip Hirshberg, Vice-President; N. Greenwald, Secretary; M. Harrison, Treasurer; and G. Henry, Isaac Jacob, M. Myer, Philip Whitlock, Trustees. The Building Committee, already named, and the Committee of Arrangements are also given. The minister was Rev. L. Jacoby. During the service, Reverend Max J. Michelbacher offered a prayer and Reverend George Jacobs, of Philadelphia, delivered the Consecration Sermon.

The synagogue of Keneseth Israel today has 88 members. The organization possesses a much changed personnel but it retains the old books of the congregation, a few of which have survived the ravages of time. An incomplete copy of the minutes has been preserved. The officers are: Henry J. Cohn, President; Vice-President, G. Bernstein; Secretary since January 1900, Abe Cohn; and Treasurer, S. Jacobson.

One other organization must be mentioned. This is the Sir Moses Montefiore Congregation, which came into being about twenty odd years ago. When Beth Ahaba moved into its magnificent new building, the orthodox organization secured the old edifice and are worshipping there at the present time. Sam Stern is the President and H. E. Hirshberg, Secretary, of the Sir Moses Montefiore Congregation.

Perhaps many readers of Richmond's history would like to know when the old cemetery was abandoned and the Shockoe Hill burying-ground became the place of interment. At the formation of Beth Shalom (1791) by Jacob Mordecai, Joseph Darmstadt (one of the few German Jews in Richmond prior to 1800), Samuel Alexander, Marcus Elean, Zalma Rehine—uncle of Isaac Leeser



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—, and others, the cemetery problem loomed up large. Accordingly, in October of that year, Isaiah Isaac vested into the hands of certain trustees a portion of his garden. This burying ground was placed under the supervision and control of Beth Shalome and used as a place of burial until the year 1816. About that time the walls around the cemetery had gotten into a dilapidated condition and the members of the congregation being increased, it was thought to be more prudent for Beth Shalome to obtain a new burying ground than to incur the expense or rebuilding a wall around a place which was too small for the enlarged membership. Therefore, at a meeting of the congregation held on the 18th of February, 1816, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That, Messrs. Benjamin Wolfe, Mandel Judah, and Samuel Myers, be appointed a committee to investigate the records of the Common Hall, concerning the appropriation of some ground that was laid off for burying grounds, for the different religious societies some time back, and that they use their endeavors to obtain said ground for this congregation."

At a subsequent meeting, held on the 9th of June, 1816, Mr. Benjamin Wolfe, chairman of the committee, laid before those present the following ordinance:

"In Ordinance Concerning the Hebrew Society of Richmond.

Passed May 20th, 1816.

"Be it ordained, etc., etc., That one acre of land, being a part of the land belonging to the city of Richmond, and lying upon Shockoe Hill, as laid off and designated in a plot of the said land, made by Richard Young, Surveyor of the city of Richmond, be and the same is hereby vested in the Hebrew Society of the city of Richmond, called

in Hebrew, "Ka Kadosh Beth Shalome," in English, "The Congregation for the House of Peace", to be by them held, and exclusively used as burying ground, subject to their rites and laws, for that purpose, and for that alone."

The land was accepted by the congregation. It has been added to and contains a Soldiers' Section. Jewish patriots, who fell in the War between the States rest within an iron enclosure, of martial design. When Beth Ahaba was organized, an unpleasant controversy arose over interments. This dispute dragged a long time. Despite the bitterness engendered, few of the present generation are aware of Beth Shalome's trial of suffering. The old congregation claimed that they had exclusive right but would allow interments on the part of Beth Ahaba, on certain conditions. The disagreement was settled, in 1865, by a mutually signed document.

Of the modern history of Richmond, so to speak, the Jewish citizens have played a great part in its commercial development. The Cohen Company and Talheimer Bros., are well known establishments. L. Z. Morris, Raphael Levy, Dr. Chas. A. Labenberg, Israel Stern, Sol L. Bloomberg, and others, have become intimately associated with the life of the city. In conclusion, a few words concerning Mrs. Rosalie Held must be added. This old lady, the mother of Isaac Held whose biography appears in another column, came to Richmond in 1846. On the 4th of July of each year, she celebrates her birthday, surrounded by her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and friends. She will reach the advanced age of ninety-four on next Independence Day. May she round out the century with the same amount of mental vigor as she displays now to her admiring friends!



THE JEFFERSON CLUB.

### Ladies' Hebrew Benevolent Association.

The Ladies' Hebrew Benevolent Association has been in existence since January, 1890. The first Jewish organization of this kind was brought into being through Max J. Michelbacher, father of Mrs. Sam Cohen who today directs with tireless energy and success the charitable work of the Association. Before the advent of Rev. Mr. Michelbacher, charitable work had been carried on by societies of one sort or another, but he realized the necessity of drawing the Jewish women of the community into closer relationship. Accordingly, in 1889, the Ladies' Hebrew Association was formed.

The early organization served another purpose, in addition to that of charity (which constitutes the *raison d'être* of the Ladies' Hebrew Benevolent Association). At that time it was purely beneficial. The members received a sick benefit and were otherwise assisted until the outbreak of the War between the States. From 1861 on, the funds were used exclusively for caring for the sick and wounded soldiers. Many a mortally wounded patriot offered up a fervent prayer for this noble organization of Jewish women, who spent weary hours in ministering to their comfort.

After the close of the hostilities a reorganization took place, under the name of the Ladies' Hebrew Beneficial Association. This second society, in addition to its beneficial features, added a fund for charitable purposes. The poor and needy were cared for, but not until 1890 when the beneficial feature was eliminated, did the organization proceed along broad lines.

Mrs. Sam Cohen stated in one of her reports, which was read before the Council of Jewish Women:

"Each year has it striven to broaden its usefulness, until today it stands forth like a giant oak affording shelter to the poor and needy. Nor is it necessary to go into minute detail, or go through the various periods of distress, which from time to time have come in our midst. Suffice to say that no crisis has come upon us of which this organization has not been able to take care of, and we have the satisfaction of knowing that our poor have been cared for as well, if not better, than any class of poor in the community. We give each year one hundred dollars to the Instructive Visiting Nurses Association, and this enables us to provide trained nurses at any time for our sick. We have sent numbers of tubercular cases to the National Home for Consumptives at Denver, also provided for many tuberculars here in Virginia, and some have been pronounced cured. We have helped to send many a traveler back to his beloved fa-

therland, or helped him to reach some desired country where perhaps waited for him a beloved relative or friend. We have procured situations for many men and women, and in this manner have enabled them to make of themselves good and useful citizens. We have provided for several wayward girls at the Home of the Good Shepherd in Baltimore, who have become good women, and one at St. Vincent's Hospital, in Norfolk, who was graduated as a trained nurse, and is doing good work. We have a membership of 236, of whom 208 pay four dollars a year, and the remaining contributing members paying two dollars. Therefore, the greater amount of our fund necessarily comes from voluntary contributions.

### Council of Jewish Women.

The Richmond Section, Council of Jewish Women, was organized on January 25, 1905, after an address delivered in Temple Beth Ahabah by Miss Goldberg of Texas. There were forty-one charter members. At the initial election of officers Mrs. Edward N. Calisch was chosen President; Miss Florence Thalheimer, Vice-President; Miss Kate Binswanger, Secretary; and Mrs. Julius Edel, Treasurer. A Bible Class, under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Edward N. Calisch, represented the first activity of the new organization.

The second year saw a steady increase in the membership, the total reaching one hundred and three. During the early part of 1906, the Religious School of the Council was organized under the auspices of the Philanthropic Committee. A night school and Sewing Class were also formed. Mrs. Morris H. Asher, a daughter of the late Max J. Michelbacher, successfully labored to bring their need before the public. On account of the public schools taking a large part of the children of the Night School, it was discontinued but the Sewing Class still continues to hold its sessions in the Neighborhood Home on every Monday afternoon.

Richmond Section now numbers one hundred and eighty members. The officers are: Honorary President, Mrs. Dr. Edward N. Calisch, President, Mrs. E. A. Ezekiel (whose biography appears elsewhere); Vice-President, Mrs. H. S. Binswanger; Recording Secretary, Miss Rebecca Whitlock, daughter of Philip Whitlock; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. J. H. Jonesoff (nee Miss Hortense Bottigheimer); Treasurer, Mrs. Julius Edel, whose interest in various activities deserves special mention; Auditor, Miss Kate Binswanger, and, ex-President, Mrs. S. Galeski.



### The Religious School.

A pet work of the Council of Jewish Women is the Religious School, established as indicated above under the auspices of the Philanthropic Committee. Miss Florence Thalheimer organized the school with seventy-five pupils and ten teachers. The enrollment this year has reached the admirable total of three hundred children and twenty-seven teachers. Excellent results have been gained.

The Religious School meets every Sunday morning in the basement of Sir Moses Montefiore Synagogue. This edifice was the former home of Beth Ababa. Miss Sara Bottigheimer has occupied the position of Superintendent for the past three years and takes a great interest in her work. A library was started with twenty-five books but the school now boasts of seven hundred volumes.

Two years ago the first Confirmation Service, in the history of the Orthodox Jews of Richmond, took place. Two entertainments are given a year, on Purim and on Chanukah. At the closing exercises of each term, prizes are awarded. The annual picnic is an enjoyable feature

### The Neighborhood <sup>Home</sup> Council.

The Council of Jewish Women has long realized the necessity of a Neighborhood Home for the purpose of improving conditions in the congested district of the city. Since 1906, the Richmond Section has succeeded in getting a large proportion of the children to attend their religious school but through this means only a part of the desired result could be accomplished. During 1912, matters were brought to a head and a Home was established at the corner of 19th and Broad. Mrs. H. S. Binswanger, a daughter of the late Herman Whitlock, was the able chairman of the energetic committee.

At the formal opening of the building, special exercises were held. Miss Seldner of Buffalo, who assumed charge of the Neighborhood Home, has plunged into her work with enthusiasm. Every Sunday afternoon children gather and amuse themselves with music and game. Members of the Council have volunteered to teach music and dancing. On Wednesday evenings a Sewing Class is held for the adults, while the young folks indulge in dancing. On Saturday afternoons the mothers are encouraged to come and spend a pleasant hour. By entertaining them, the Richmond Section of the Council hopes to keep boys and girls off the street.

### Junior Council.

A Junior Section, of the Council, has done commendable work. This organization furnishes a great part of the teaching staff of the Religious School, brought into being by the Senior Section. The Junior Section recently sent money to the relief of their co-religionists in the Balkans. Its members have made appropriations for a number of worthy causes. During the past Fall, a delegation of Richmonders went to Norfolk, Virginia, and organized there a Junior Section. Irving May is President and Roy Eichel, Secretary.

### Hebrew Home for the Aged and Infirm.

The idea of establishing a home for aged and infirm Jews originated with Henry Hutzler, who received little encouragement for a long time; but, in 1888, his determination was rewarded. About one hundred signed a call for organization in May of that year and, on September 30th, the Home for the Aged and Infirm came into existence. Henry S. Hutzler was elected President; L. Z. Morris, Vice-President, and Charles Hutzler, Secretary-Treasurer. Despite repeated predictions of failure every obstacle was removed. From a small fund of less than a thousand dollars, in January, 1890, thousands upon thousands have been collected since for the support of aged persons.

### I. O. B. B.

The Independent Order of B'nai B'rith is represented in Richmond by Rimmon Lodge No. 68, with a membership of about one hundred and sixty. Great interest is being manifested at the present time and a campaign for increased numbers is being waged. Rimmon Lodge is represented on the executive committee of the Constitution Grand Lodge by Dr. Edward M. Calisch as representative from District Grand Lodge No. 5, and on the general committee of the District Grand Lodge by Mr. Edwin L. Levy.

The officers of Rimmon Lodge for the present year are: President, Harold S. Bloomberg; Vice-President, Samuel S. Rosendorf; Assistant Monitor, M. L. Hofheimer; Monitor, Albert Schwartz; Secretary, Morton G. Thalheimer; Treasurer, Joseph L. Levy; Warden, J. Leo Levy; Guardian, Alvin B. Hutzler.



CAPITOL BUILDING.

EDWARD N. CALISCH, PH. D.

Dr. Edward N. Calisch, Rabbi of Beth Ahabah congregation, has been spiritual head of the leading Jewish house of worship for more than twenty-one years. He came to Richmond from Peoria, as a successor to Dr. A. Harris. His stay has continued through repeated elections and he has become so closely identified with the life of the community, that his departure would not only be a distinct loss, but would leave a vacancy that would be very hard to fill.

He was born at Toledo, Ohio, in June, 1865. While the Hebrew Union College was young and on trial, as it were, he entered the institution. His matriculation took place in 1879, several years before the first graduates

gational singing resulted in a volunteer choir, which now takes a permanent place among other organizations, connected with the house of worship. Dr. Calisch has declined calls to other communities.

He attended the University of Virginia, at Charlottesville, for three days a week, without interfering seriously with his Rabbinical duties, and received in the due course of time, both the much desired degrees of Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy. He has participated in many notable occasions. He delivered the prayer at Mount Vernon on the centennial of the death of Washington and has opened with prayer the House of Representatives, at Washington.

Dr. Edward N. Calisch is a member of the Executive Committee, I. O. B. B.; Vice-President of the Alumnae Association of the Hebrew Union College; member of



DR. EDWARD N. CALISCH.

left the school. He received both the degree of B. L. and the title of Rabbi, in 1887. His secular education, leading to the above degree, was obtained at the University of Cincinnati. It may be worthy of remark that he was the sole graduate, in 1887, at the Hebrew Union College.

Dr. Calisch married Miss Gisela Woolner, in 1890, and has three children, Harold, Woolner, and Edward N., the second. After his arrival in Richmond, he labored successfully to bring the various activities of the congregation up to a high standard. As an orator, he immediately obtained great favor and fame. A great deal of his time was spent in Circuit preaching, of which movement he was the originator.

He worked energetically for the magnificent new Temple on West Franklin, one of the points of interest shown to visitors. His labors in the interest of congre-

the Executive Committee of the Central Conference of American Rabbis; 2nd Vice-President of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; Trustee for the Jewish Orphans' Home, at Atlanta; National Jewish Hospital, Denver; on Faculty of Correspondence School of Jewish Chautauqua Society; Phi Beta Kappa and the Raven Society U. of V.

His literary activity deserves individual mention. He has written a "Child's Bible;" "Prayer and Hymn Books," used for many years by Beth Ahabah; and is the author of "The Jew in English Literature," a work of much merit. This last named publication has received a number of flattering criticisms. He is the strong, capable leader that make not only Richmond Jews, but the entire Jewish South proud of him known by Jew and Gentile alike, and loved by all who come in contact with him.

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CHARLES HUTZLER.

Charles Hutzler, President of Beth Ahabah congregation, was born in Richmond October 26, 1849. He was educated in a parochial school, conducted by the Rev. M. J. Michelbacher, but the knowledge gained at this time was merely the foundation for his extensive store of information. Since leaving school, Mr. Hutzler has devoted a multitude of hours towards wide reading and study. Today he is one of the most scholarly citizens of Richmond, despite the fact that many years were spent as head of a mercantile concern.

He married Miss Jeanette Millhiser, in 1875, and has one son, Alvin. From 1865 to 1877, he served as teacher and then as assistant superintendent of the Beth Ahabah Sabbath School. In 1898, he was elected to the Vice-Presidency of the congregation and continued to hold this office until elevated to the highest position therein.

Mr. Hutzler attends services regularly. His firm, A. Hutzler's Sons, always closed its doors on Saturday. It prospered nevertheless. Today Charles Hutzler is President of the Central National Bank. He patiently studied Hebrew grammar and can read the 'Holy Language' with pleasure. His Jewishness may well be imitated by his co-religionists.

He was one of the organizers of the Jefferson Literary Association, which became the Jefferson Literary and Social Circle, but withdrew when it merged with the Mercantile Club, on account of the change of objects of the new association. He has delivered lectures on literary and religious topics; three of which may be named: "The Study of Othello," "Religious Leaders," and "The Jews of Germany and Anti-Semitism."

Charles Hutzler was secretary for twelve years of Rimmon Lodge, I. O. B. B., and the first secretary-treasurer of the Hebrew Home for the Aged and Infirm. He was a member of the School Board, of the City of Richmond, for sixteen years and its Chairman for six years. When the magnificent High School was built a few years ago, the members of the Board used to 'ask Hutzler' for all information connected therewith. His heart was in the task of giving Richmond one of the largest and best appointed High Schools in the United States and he succeeded. The John Marshall High School should be visited by all tourists.

Mr. Hutzler has for a number of years been President of the Prison Association of Virginia, which is doing good work in the reformation of criminals. He occu-

pies a place in the directorate of the American Window Corporation; is a director of the Public Playgrounds Association; has been on the Board of the Rosemary Library; is a member of the Jefferson Club; has done charitable and other worthy work.

## PHILIP WHITLOCK.

Philip Whitlock was born on the 14 of March, 1838. He came to Richmond in 1854, and, from the unenviable condition of stranger, he worked his way up to the proud position of one of Richmond's well known citizens. At present, he is a capitalist, but was for a number of years engaged in the manufacture of cigars. He maintains an office with Emanuel Raab, in the Mutual Building.

In 1863, he married Miss Eva Abrams and has the following children: Miss Rebecca S., Mrs. Moses Zander, Mrs. Alfred Newman, Mrs. Aaron Greenwald, Mrs. Sadie Block, Mrs. Julius W. Klaus, and Lee A. Whitlock. He is Vice-President of Beth Ahabah, Past President of two lodges, I. O. B. B., Past High Priest, Royal Arch, 3 and 32; he has been a director of the Virginia Hospital.

Mr. Whitlock originated the widely known Old Virginia Cheroot. This article is now advertized and sold by the present owners in every nook and corner of the land. Many years ago the founders of the American Tobacco Company saw the worth of this special brand and made the manufacturer a flattering offer, which he accepted. For a while, Phillip Whitlock was a director of the American Cigar Company. He is one of Richmond's most generous citizens.



MARX GUNST.

Photo by "Foster."

Marx Gunst was born in Philadelphia, June 24, 1856, but moved to Richmond at the early age of three months. His life has always been connected with the State of his adoption and to all intents and purposes he may be called a Virginian. After spending a few years in school, he entered mercantile pursuits. At present, he is manager for Hubbs and Corning Co., in the City of Richmond and the State of Virginia.

He married Miss Emma Kronheimer in 1879, and has three children: Albert, Sidney, and Miss Klarice. For twenty-eight years, he served as teacher and Asst. Superintendent of the Beth Ahabah School; he is a member of the Board of Managers of the Congregation; a chapter Mason; a member of the I. O. O. B.; Royal

Arcanum; on the Board of the Mechanics' Institute for eighteen years; and one of the organizers of the Richmond Junior Literary Association, which afterwards merged with the Jefferson.

Marx Gunst enjoys the distinction of being the only Jew elected to the upper branch of the City Council. The roster of the lower branch contains several Jewish names but his stands alone in the list of Aldermen. His entry into municipal affairs occurred in 1894, when he was elected a member of the lower branch. In this body he served for eight years. Since his elevation to the Board of Aldermen, he has been Vice-President for years. He was President of the Board for a short term and acted, during this period, as Mayor of the City. Both branches honored him with the chairmanship of some of the most important committees.



S. L. BLOOMBERG. Photo by "Foster."

During the long public life of Sol L. Bloomberg few Jews of this city enjoyed more honors than those showered upon him. A few years ago, after a law practice of a quarter of a century, he withdrew from the limelight and now leads the peaceful life of retirement. He was born in Yorkville, South Carolina, July 29, 1858, but came to Richmond with his parents in 1861. Mr. Bloomberg read law under Major John Johns, Jr., one of the city's most learned attorneys, completing his legal education at the Summer Law School of the University of Virginia. He was admitted to the bar in July 1879, entering at once active practice in conjunction with his preceptor under the firm name of Jones & Bloomberg, which continued to the death of the former, when he practised alone until the admission to the bar of his son. He married Miss Alice Ezekiel in 1880. Since the untimely death of his wife his children are his chief pleasure. They are: Harold S. (a sketch of whom appears elsewhere), Mrs. Alfred B. Lichtenstein, Mrs. Edwin N. Ezekiel, Clarence, Alma and Louis.

A deep interest in public affairs caused him to enter politics with enthusiasm. He served for a number of years as Vice-Chairman of the City Democratic Committee; beginning with 1894, he served continuously for ten years in the Common Council, his five terms being

marked by such energy as to win for him the high esteem of his colleagues. At the 1902 election, he led his ticket and upon the organization of the body received the unanimous vote of the members for the Presidency of the Common Council. Those who knew him well realized his courage in defending opinions, whether on the side of the majority or on the side of the minority.

In 1904 he declined to stand for re-election to the body. Before enumerating the organizations with which he has been affiliated, mention must be made of his service as President of the Board of Public Interests and as a member of the Board of Commissioners of the Sinking Fund. Sol L. Bloomberg took an active part in many organizations and his associates expressed their appreciation by repeatedly honoring him. He was at the head of nearly every one, at some time during his service. He is an ex-President of the Jefferson Literary and Social Circle; was Treasurer of the Jefferson Club; Past Master of Fraternal Lodge No. 53, A. F. and A. M.; Past High Priest of Richmond Royal Arch Chapter No. 3, and Temple Royal Arch Chapter No. 32, and Past Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Virginia; Past President of Paradise Lodge No. 223, I. O. B. B.; Past Chancellor of Jefferson Lodge No. 23, Knights of Pythias, and Past Grand Regent of the Grand Council Royal Arcanum of Virginia, having been for four years the representative of his State in the Supreme Council of that order; to these will be added his connection with the Red Men and Odd Fellows. In June 1896 he was elected a member of the Board of Managers of the Congregation Beth Ababah and since 1909 has been its Treasurer.

Five handsome gold jewels attest the appreciation of his fraternal association. Upon retirement from the Common Council, Mr. Bloomberg was presented with an engrossed copy of the following resolutions, expressing the esteem of the members:

"At a meeting of the Common Council of Richmond, Va., held August 5, 1904, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

"Be it RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Richmond that the thanks of the members of this body be and are hereby extended to

HON. SOL L. BLOOMBERG, PRESIDENT,

for the uniform courteous and polite consideration shown them while acting in his capacity as presiding officer during the term of this Council, for his fair and impartial rulings, and his respectful and conscientious decisions of questions at issue.

"Be it RESOLVED further that this body expresses its regret at his retirement from active service as a member of the Council and hereby records its appreciation of his long and faithful service to the city.

Ben T. August,  
City Clerk."

#### HAROLD S. BLOOMBERG.

Harold S. Bloomberg, son of Sol L. and the late Alice E. Bloomberg, was born in the city of Richmond thirty-one years ago; was educated in the public schools and graduated from the Richmond High School in 1897, winning the faculty scholarship to Richmond College; attended academic and law schools of the latter institution, receiving the degree of Bachelor of Law in the class of 1900, and winning the Edward Thompson Company prize, valued at \$250.00 for the best thesis submitted in a contest open to students of the law school.

Mr. Bloomberg began the practice of law in 1901, at the age of twenty years, under the provisions of a spe-



cial act of the Legislature of Virginia. He is senior member of the firm of Bloomberg & Hutzler, his partner being Alvin B. Hutzler (son of Charles Hutzler, whose biography appears elsewhere), and is local attor-



Photo by "Foster."

HAROLD S. BLOOMBERG.

ney for the Virginia Railway & Power Company and assistant counsel for the Richmond Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Mr. Bloomberg is President of Rimmon Lodge, No. 68, I. O. B. B. In 1909 he married Miss Clara H. Kahn, formerly of Harrisburg, Pa.



Photo by "Foster."

MILTON E. MARCUSE.

Milton E. Marcuse was born in Richmond, August 27, 1869. His parents removed six months later to California, where his early life was spent. However, he returned East in 1882 and attended the Richmond High

School, from which he received a diploma of graduation. In 1889, he became connected with the Hasker-Marcuse Company, which concern assumed such formidable proportions that it was absorbed by the American Can Company.

He married Miss Rosa May, in 1894. Mr. Marcuse now holds an important interest in the manufacture of paper (Bedford Pulp and Paper Company.) He has been President of the Jefferson Literary and Social Circles; Rimmon Lodge, I. O. B. B.; and the Jefferson Club; a master Mason; and king of Temple chapter, Royal Arch Masons. He has been director of several organizations: Chamber of Commerce, Broad Street Bank, Hebrew Home for the Aged and Infirm, Prison Association of Virginia, Virginia State Penitentiary, Retreat for the Sick, Spring Street Home, Jewish Orphans' Home, Atlanta, and the Beth Ahabah congregation. Under the administrations of Andrew Jackson Montague and Claude A. Swanson, Governors of Virginia, he was President of the State Board of Pardons.



HENRY S. HUTZLER.

Henry S. Hutzler is one of the most popular citizens of Richmond. He has done a great deal of charity in a quiet way and deserves to have a conspicuous record made of his kindness to the poor of the city. He was born in Petersburg, Virginia, on the 25 of September, 1857. His education in the public and private schools of Richmond being shortened, so that he could begin a business career, he entered upon the stern duties of life as a stock boy, at the sum of one dollar and twenty-five cents a week. Today he heads the banking business of Henry S. Hutzler & Co.

He has never married and compensates for lack of children of his own, by taking great interest in orphans. Henry S. Hutzler has been for years connected with numerous organizations some of which follow: a member of the Board and Secretary of the Beth Ahabah congregation; Past Grand President I. O. B. B., District No. 5; member for Virginia of American Jewish Committee; founder and President of the Richmond Hebrew Home for the Aged and Infirm; member of Fraternal Lodge No. 53, A. F. & A. M.; on the Board of the Masonic Home of Virginia; on the Board of the Home for Wayward Girls of Virginia; a member of the Richmond Education Association; Virginia Association of Charities and Corrections; Associated Charities of Richmond; on the Board of the Sheltering Arms' Hospital; Richmond Male Orphan Asylum; Virginia Mechanics' Institute; Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities; and Treasurer of the Foundling Asylum.

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A glance at the list, already given, shows the variety of organizations with which Henry S. Hutzler has become affiliated. They represent all classes of denominations of Virginians, but the list has by no means been completed; he holds life memberships in the following three: Home for Incurables, Police Benevolent Association, and Firemen's Relief Association; a Board member of the Orphans' Home, at Atlanta; National Jewish Hospital for Consumptives, of Denver; National Farm School; National Jewish Immigrant Society; and Jewish Publication Society of America. He is a member of the Jefferson Club, the Business Men's Club, the Chamber of Commerce, the American Bankers' Association and the Virginia Bankers' Association. And still he finds time to aid the cause of music by holding membership in the Richmond Philanthropic Society.



DR. ERNEST C. LEVY.

Dr. Ernest C. Levy, at the present time Chief Health Officer in the Richmond Health Department, was educated in the public schools of the city, the Medical College of Virginia, the College of physicians and Surgeons at New York, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He is a native of Richmond, one of whom the city can point to pride. Born August 11, 1868, his life has been spent in a succession of busy years. During 1912, he married Miss Elizabeth Detwiler.

Dr. Levy served as professor of Histology, Pathology, and Bacteriology, at the Medical College of Virginia, 1897-1900; director of laboratory, at the City Water Department, Richmond 1904-6; city bacteriologist, 1905-6; and has been chief health officer of the Health Department since 1909. While serving as professor, he also edited the Medical Register. During 1902, he was house physician at Mount Sinai Hospital, New York City.

He occupies the position of Secretary of that Section of the American Public Health Association, denominated Municipal Health Officers; he is a member of the Society of Bacteriology; of the American Medical Association, and the Virginia Medical Society. In 1900, he was president of the Richmond Academy of Medicine and Surgery.

Dr. Levy's life has been so crowded with varied work that a sketch falls short of doing him justice. Through

his efforts largely, the American Public Health Association held its sessions in Richmond, a few years ago. Many delegates were present from Latin America. His efforts in improving the health conditions of the Capital of Virginia reserve special mention.



ISAAC HELD.

Isaac Held, Deputy Treasurer of the City of Richmond (which position he has held despite major changes in the office, was born in Richmond on October 20, 1854. He was engaged for a while in mercantile pursuits. He married Miss Mary Bachrach, in 1878, and has a number of children, and grandchildren.

Mr. Held served on the Board of Managers of Beth Ahabah congregation for several years, was quite a while chairman of the music committee, and is now Financial Secretary. Of the Jewish organizations with which he is connected, it may be mentioned that for many years he has held the office of Secretary of the Jefferson Club and that of Secretary-Treasurer of the Hebrew Home for the Aged and Infirm.

He is clerk of Magnolia Camp, Woodman of the World; a member of the Heptasophs; Ben Hur; Bankers Union; Royal Arcanum; Fraternity Lodge F. A. W., etc. Mr. Held is always ready to help those who come to him for information and has earned the enviable reputation of being a courteous and accommodating gentleman.

H. S. BINSWANGER.

Mr. Binswanger was born in Richmond, May 29, 1866. After attending the public schools of the city, he entered business life and now occupies the position of President of the large and well known concern, Binswanger & Company, Inc. This firm has offices, both at Richmond and at Memphis, and handles glass and building supplies.

H. S. Binswanger married in 1893, Miss Rebecca W. Whitlock, and has two children, Samuel E. and Leah W. He is on the Board of Directors, of the Chamber of Commerce; ex-President of the Jefferson Club; a member of the Business Men's Club, a Mason, and a member of the I. O. B. B.



## MRS. E. A. EZEKIEL.

Mrs. Ezekiel (nee Martha Levy) was born in Richmond and received her education at the Baptist Female Institute, now called the women's College, of Richmond. She graduated in 1874 and won a medal for essay writing. Another honor, which may be mentioned in this connection, was the winning of a prize from the Philadelphia Y. M. H. A., for an essay. Her mental equipment needs no further comment than to mention the fact of her being a member of the Levy family. She is a sister of Dr. Ernest C. Levy, and therefore, a niece of Dr. Henry H. Levy.

She married Edward A. Ezekiel, in 1880, and has four children: Miss Helen, Percy, Dr. Gerald, and Edwin. For a number of years, Mrs. Ezekiel has been President of the Richmond Section, Council of Jewish Women; she is Treasurer of the Ladies' Hebrew Memorial Association; she holds membership in the Benevolent Society and Ladies' Auxiliary, Society for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, the Peace League, and the Progressive Literary Association (of which she was a charter member.) She has recently become an Anti-Suffragist. At the end of her second term as President of the Council of Jewish Women, Mrs. Ezekiel was presented with a testimonial of the high esteem in which she was regarded by her fellow workers for the cause of Judaism.



MRS. SAM COHEN.

Mrs. Sam Cohen (nee Zipporah Michelbacher) was born in Richmond and is the oldest daughter of the late Rev. M. J. Michelbacher, who guided the Beth Ahabah congregation through many trying years. She married in 1875 and has three sons: Leroy E., Max J., and James Beale. Her husband, Sam Cohen, is a member of the Cohen Company, one of the largest department stores of the city.

She was educated at her father's school and also at Powell's Female Seminary. She has a great deal of energy and her efforts in the community have helped wonderfully. She directs charitable enterprises and assists in laudable objects generally. Mrs. Cohen is President of

the Ladies' Hebrew Benevolent Association; 1st Vice-President of the Beth Ahabah Auxiliary; Chairman, Hebrew Home for Aged and Infirm; Treasurer, Eye, Ear and Throat Infirmary; 1st Vice-President, Instructive Visiting Nurses Association; member of Daughters of the Confederacy; Richmond Kindergarten Association; member, Hospital Board; Richmond Education Association; and Chairman of the Immigration Committee, Council of Jewish Women.

## MRS. JULIUS EDEL.

Mrs. Julius Edel (nee Miss Delia Myers) was born at Hot Springs, Virginia. She is a sister to the late Herman Myers, Mayor of Savannah who was very highly thought of in Georgia. She received her education both at Lynchburg and Savannah High Schools. After graduation, she studied music and German at the New York Conservatory of Music.

She was married at Lynchburg, in 1883, and has three children; Miss Elfreda, Albert, and Herman. She has done a great deal for the Jewish community of Richmond, along many lines. She is treasurer, of the local section, Council of Jewish Women; she helped inaugurate settlement work in the city; she takes the time to find out the weak links in the Jewish social organization and then directs her efforts to remedy conditions. Mrs. Edel is a member of the Daughters of the Confederacy.

## HENRY H. LEVY M.D.

Dr. Henry H. Levy is an uncle of Dr. Ernest C. Levy. He was born on the 24 of December, 1850, and received his early education at the private school of E. W. Cone. He attended Richmond College and graduated in 1869, as Bachelor of Arts. Entering the Medical College of Virginia, located in his native city, Richmond, he graduated in 1871, receiving the faculty prize. After serving fifteen months in the Philadelphia Hospital, he returned to Richmond and began the practice of medicine. Dr. Levy has been a practitioner since February, 1873, and his reputation among the members of all denominations has marked him as an exceptionally well liked gentleman.

He married Miss Gertrude Hahn of Philadelphia, March 1, 1888, and has two children, Theodore J., and Clare M. He has found time, amid the exacting duties of an extensive practise, to keep in touch with a multitude of topics. He is Emeritus Professor of Practice of Medicine, Medical College of Virginia; was professor of Physiology for twelve years and Neurology for five years. Dr. Levy held the presidency of the Richmond Academy of Medicine and Surgery, in 1881. He still retains membership in this body and is a member of both of the Medical Society of Virginia and the American Medical Association.

## LEON M. NELSON.

Leon M. Nelson was born in Richmond, 1876. After a course in the local public schools, he went to Cincinnati and entered the Hebrew Union College and Hughes High School. During his graduating year at the latter institution, he won the oratorical medal. After leaving Hughes High School, he matriculated at the University of Cincinnati and graduated therefrom in 1898. At the same time he received the title of Rabbi from the Hebrew Union College.

He married, in 1900, Henrietta Adler, of Cincinnati, and has two children; Nathan Henry and Leon M. Nelson, the second. For a number of years he was Rabbi

of Temple Israel, Brooklyn (the pulpit now occupied by the Rev. Dr. Nathan Krass), but gave up the ministerial calling for the profession of law. He attended both Columbia University and the University of Virginia. On his return to Richmond, he became associated with his brother in the firm of Nelson and Nelson.



LEON M. NELSON. Photo by "Foster."

Among the organizations with which he is connected may be mentioned: Phi Delta Phi Fraternity; Jefferson Club, of which he is a Director; the Hebrew Cemetery Company, in which he holds the position of Trustee, and the Vice-Presidency of the Country Club of Richmond.



DR. MARK W. PEYSER.

Dr. Mark W. Peyser, Secretary of the Richmond Academy of Medicine and Surgery for nineteen consecutive terms, is a native of Washington, D. C. He was born July 8, 1870. He received his education in the High School of Petersburg, Virginia, and the University of Virginia, where he studied medicine. He was married in 1897 to Miss Eva Lee Ezekiel.

After graduating from the University, in 1890, he received the appointment of resident physician, at the Retreat for the Sick, in Richmond. He served here for twelve months. He lectured for seven years in the University College of Medicine. Dr. Peyser is Treasurer of the Medical Society of Virginia; physician, Hebrew Home for Aged and Infirm; Examiner, National Hospital for Consumptives; etc.

He has contributed to medical journals; was for a time Associate Editor of the Virginia Medical Semi-Monthly; and has to his credit a work entitled "Manual of Physics of ~~Pathology~~ <sup>Physiology</sup>." Dr. Peyser is very popular with the members of his profession. No better proof can be found than his continued election to the difficult position of Secretary of the Richmond Academy of Medicine and Surgery. His manner is magnetic and exceptionally mild.



EMANUEL RAAB. Photo by "Foster."

Emanuel Raab was born at Hanover, Penn., on the 13 of February, 1845. He received a public school education, in Baltimore. He married Miss Rosa Belle Strause, in 1878, and has four children: Genevieve (Ullman), Emily (Hammel), Merrill E., and Henry S. He came to Richmond during April, 1884. Mr. Raab was engaged for many years in the Leaf Tobacco business but has retired. However, his varied interests require him to maintain an office.

He was a mason and a member of the Royal Arch; on the Cemetery Board; a member of the Beth Ahabah Board; Trustee for the Ladies' Hebrew Benevolent Society; on the Board of the Jefferson Hotel; Trustee for the Home for Needy Confederate Women; on the Board of the Retreat for the Sick, and other organizations.



AUBREY H. STRAUS.

Photo by "Foster."

Aubrey H. Straus, City Bacteriologist, was born in Richmond, during the year 1887. Although a young man, he has already begun to make a place for himself

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in the educational life of the city. After graduating from Richmond College in 1907, as a Bachelor of Science, he spent two sessions in post graduate work at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In 1911, he married Miss Wilna Marx, of Detroit, and has one son, Clifford Allen.

He is an Associate Member of the Richmond Academy of Medicine and Surgery; assistant professor of Bacteriology at the University College of Medicine; Instructor in Hygiene at the Medical College of Virginia; and, a member of American Public Health Association. Aubrey H. Straus is a nephew of Dr. Ernest C. Levy and Mrs. E. A. Ezekiel.

## LEON WALLERSTEIN.

Leon Wallerstein was born in Richmond, in 1854. For years he has taken an interest in civic affairs generally. Although actively engaged as a business man, he finds time to attend meetings and give his views. He was married in 1889, to Miss Sadie Wechsler, of New York and has the following children: Robert L., Clemence M., Frances Marion, Ethel Sadie, and Leon, Jr.

He is a Director of the Chamber of Commerce; a Past President of the Credit Men's Association, and now on the Executive Board. His business is wholesale Dry Goods and Notions. Mr. Wallerstein has served as President of the Jefferson Club, the leading social Jewish organization of the city.

## IN MEMORIAM.



MRS. SOL L. BLOOMBERG.

Mrs. Alice Ezekiel Bloomberg was born October 4, 1860. She spent her life in her native city and so endeared herself to its inhabitants that there was universal mourning when she was taken away suddenly from family and friends, on April 9th, 1907. Funeral services were held in Beth Ahaba, an unusual circumstance, and the Temple was crowded. An immense cortege accompanied the deceased to the cemetery. Not only had she mothered a large family, but she also had found time to comfort the unfortunate and assist the needy, to which unselfish service numerous resolutions testify.

Mrs. Bloomberg was the daughter of N. and Rebecca (Levy) Ezekiel. The combined blood of two distinguished families showed to advantage in her case, truly exemplifying the phrase: "Blood will tell." She graduated from the Richmond High School, receiving a number of medals. On December 1st, 1880, she married Sol L. Bloomberg. Her family life was blessed with dutiful children.

She energetically labored for the Ladies' Hebrew Benevolent Association. Her administration accomplished much for the indigent of the city. After laying down the presidential office, she continued to serve on the executive committee. Mrs. Bloomberg served on the Executive Committee of the Beth Ahaba Ladies' Auxiliary; she was Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Old Dominion Hospital, and President of the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Masonic Home of Virginia.



E. BOTTIGHEIMER.

The synagogue of Beth Ahaba had a faithful friend in E. Bottigheimer. Many a time was he called upon to fill the pulpit as reader when unforeseen occurrences necessitated absence on the part of its regular occupant. He conducted services from the time of Dr. Harris' death, in the early part of 1891, until Dr. Edward N. Calisch assumed charge of the congregation. Since then he has officiated during the holidays, acting as assistant to the rabbi.

He came to Richmond, just prior to the War between the States, from Baden, Germany, where he was born in 1845. He married Miss Amelia Gundersheimer in 1870 and had six children to bless his union: Reverend Seymour G., a graduate of the Hebrew Union College; Mrs. Jerome H. Jonnessof, who is popular in Jewish educational circles; Misses Florence, Nettie and Hattie; and Manly F.

Mr. Bottigheimer was a past president and financial secretary of Paradise Lodge Number 223, I. O. B. B. (a charter member), and a past master and secretary of Fraternal Lodge Number 53, A. F. and A. M. He had an easy manner and possessed an approachable personality.

### JULIUS STRAUS.

A man of great activity, the late Julius Straus made a lasting place for his name in the congregational and institutional history of this city. Born in Richmond on May 4, 1843, he grew up to love the place and to labor for its advancement in every way. He was the son of Emanuel Straus, one of the founders of Beth Ahaba, and followed in his father's footsteps as an ardent supporter of the congregation.

As far back as 1873, he was elected a member of the board of managers of Beth Ahaba. For more than twenty years he served as Financial Secretary. At the death of N. W. Nelson (father of Leon M. Nelson, whose biography appears in another column), he was elected to the vice-presidency of the synagogue and, in 1898, succeeded Moses Millhiser as President. Julius Straus also acted for several years, as superintendent of the Sunday school.

He married Miss Carrie Mitteldorfer in 1866 and left five children: Mrs. Jos. M. Rosenbaum, who spends much of her time in educational and charitable work; Milton

J., who has begun commendable work for the uplift of the community; M. Mitteldorfer, an artist whose efforts are being recognized in his chosen field; Irving J., and Percy J.



JULIUS STRAUS. Photo by "Foster."

Julius Straus was a past president of Grand Lodge, I. O. B. B., District No. 5; a member of the board of governors of the Masonic Home; finance committeeman of the Grand Lodge of Masons; and, a member of a multitude of organizations. He served both the State of Virginia and the City of Richmond, having been a director of the Central State Hospital, at Petersburg, a member of the Board of Public Interests and, of the Common Council.



WASHINGTON MONUMENT.





VIEW OF RICHMOND FROM NORTHERN SUBURBS.

### CITY OF RICHMOND.

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Richmond, lying on the James, where, as one of her eloquent sons has aptly put it, "the falls of the river meet the tides of the sea," has since early colonial times held a prominent part in the social, political and military affairs of the country, great men and great events making her in every epoch of its development the scene of important activities, endowing her with a fame as enduring as the history of the republic.

Richmond was founded in 1733 by Col. William Byrd, who in 1737 began to advertise in the Virginia Gazette its advantages as a place of residence and investment. In 1756 his son, in order to hasten the sale of town lots, established the Byrd Lottery, long well known throughout the country and frequently referred to in deeds executed in the present day. In 1742 the General Assembly of Virginia established the town of Richmond, and in 1779 the seat of government was moved from Williamsburg and Richmond became the capital of Virginia. It was made the capital of the Southern Confederacy in 1861, and was for four years the storm center of the fiercest and most destructive war of modern times, only to be left finally, when the conflict was over, with its business district and portions of its residence section laid in ashes as the result of arsenals and military stores being fired by the retreating army, lest they be utilized by the city's captors.

When the Southern army disbanded in 1865 the men of Richmond returned to the city to find it in ruins—houses destroyed, property laid waste, business swept out of existence. They were too courageous to despair, too proud to cry aloud in their distress, and so, silently, grimly, and with high resolve, they set to work to lift the city from the ashes of her desolation and re-establish her in the high position that had once been hers. But instead of trying to win back her prestige in politics and war the energies and abilities of the men of Richmond were impelled by circumstances to seek other modes of expres-

sion, and they gave their efforts to winning for her a place of eminence in the commercial and industrial affairs of the country. The same unfaltering courage, the same stern determination that sustained them on the field of battle bore them and those who came after them through a thousand discouragements and disappointments in the task they had set themselves to do in rescuing the city from the red ruin war had wrought, and making her, as she is today, one of the fairest, most prosperous and most progressive of the nation's municipalities.

So quietly has this work been done, and so accustomed are people generally to regard Richmond as merely a social and political center, that few outside her own citizens have taken the measure of her accomplishment, and not many even of those who know fully appreciate its significance. Yet so effective has it been that in point of diversity of manufacturing interests, no less than in the aggregate value of product, Richmond is surpassed by few cities of the same size in the country, while in the matter of compact city building and modern municipal improvements it has few equals among cities of any size.

The spirit of aggressive enterprise exhibited by these men of Richmond attracted the attention of those from other communities who were looking for opportunities to cast their lot among people of energy and activity, and lately considerable outside money has come here for investment, giving added impulse to what was being accomplished by her own sons. With this new money and the new blood that accompanied it, and with the courage of her own people strengthened by each victory won, their ambition rising higher with each obstacle overcome, Richmond looks buoyantly out upon a future that broadens as the perspective lengthens, and is bounded by no perceptible lines of limitation.

Furnishing a broad basis for the activities of her people, though of itself inoperative without them, is Richmond's position of natural strength with respect to the

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three fundamental elements necessary to successful manufacturing—raw materials, power and transportation. The Richmond men of the early days appreciated the importance of this position—doubtless, indeed, it was a controlling factor in the founding of the city—and before the era of steam in turning wheels and driving spindles, long before its utilization upon ocean roads and steel highways, advantage was taken of the power developed from the falls of the James River, and of the deep current below the falls that bore the commerce of the city to and from the open sea, thus furnishing power for production and the facilities for assembling the raw materials and for carrying to market the finished product. Cotton mills

railway lines, reaching north and south and west, and east to the nearby seaboard, and there is now no section of the country, no market of the world, which Richmond products cannot reach with a facility and a cheapness that will average with those enjoyed by any other city. With respect to some, and especially to the rapidly-growing South, whose people in proportion to production at home are larger consumers of manufactured articles than those of any other section, Richmond occupies a position of advantage not surpassed by that of any recognized rival.

In the matter of raw materials of many kinds, Richmond possesses many advantages in the economical as-



CITY HALL.

flourished here in the early days, great flouring mills, with burrs and bolts driven by the strength of the harnessed waters, sent thousands of barrels of their product yearly into the markets of the world; iron mills and woodworking plants, each with its own individual race and its own great water-wheel, made further use of the motive potentiality which a generous nature had so liberally provided.

Since the dawning of the day of steam and the relegation of water for power and transportation from its position of primacy to that of an added advantage, other cities have secured by artificial means many of the advantages that formerly were Richmond's by force of natural endowment, and her enterprising sons have been called to meet a keener competition. But this, it seems, has only served to arouse them to a greater degree of determination, to the display of more energy and activity, to the end that their city might be placed on an equal plane of acquired facilities and still enjoy the added advantages of its natural endowment. Bending their endeavor to this object, the men of Richmond have caused their city to be made the meeting point of five great trunk

sembling. The fields of tobacco that grow near and all around; the forests of waving pine and sturdy oak and towering poplar—and all the various kinds of woods that grow between the Ohio River and the Atlantic Ocean—the mines of coal that enrich the hills of Virginia and West Virginia; the iron beds that lie thinly covered by the soil of either State; the cotton fields of the northern portion of North Carolina and the southern end of the Old Dominion—all these pour their wealth of material naturally, easily and cheaply into the lap of Richmond, here by the application of brain and power and handicraft to be wrought into myriad finished forms for the use and enjoyment of mankind.

The plants, large and small, occupied with turning these and other raw materials into finished products in 1910 numbered 1782, employing laborers to the number of 32,690, and with an aggregate capital of \$35,073,510. The combined output of these plants totaled in 1910 (the latest figures available) \$90,281,408. Prominent among these manufacturing establishments are those engaged in the manufacture of smoking and plug tobaccos, cigars, cigarettes and cheroots; the Richmond branch of the



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American Locomotive Co.; the Tredegar Company, with its great foundry and machine shops; the Old Dominion Iron and Nail Works, the Richmond Cedar Works, the three big paper mills, the Southern Manufacturing Co., making baking powder; the flouring mills, the numerous large plants of the Virginia-Carolina Chemical Co., manufacturing fertilizers, and the plant of the Richmond Guano Co..

First in importance in manufacturing plants, by reason of total value of output, are those engaged in manufacturing tobacco into its various marketable forms—smoking, plug, cigars, cigarettes, cheroots, in which the product aggregates \$21,350,925. Next comes the foundries and iron works and the nest of plants turning out locomotives, boilers, engines and agricultural implements, with a total product of \$10,525,150. These are followed, in turn, by fertilizers, paper, boots and shoes, butchers and packers of meats, manufacturers of lumber, and so on down the list to the small concerns employing but few hands and turning out products of small relative value, but each lending its help to build up an imposing aggregate. The advantage gained from this wide diversity of manufacturing interests is that it saves the city from those periods of depression that inevitably come to the community that is dominated by a single industry, and which is prosperous or otherwise according as that particular industry is active or stagnant.

But large as her manufacturing industries are, and varied as they are, Richmond still presents unsurpassed opportunities for the establishment of many more successful plants. The value of water-power in the economical production of various articles of manufacture is coming to be more and more realized as competition becomes sharper and the uncertainty of fuel prices is more and more emphasized by disturbances in labor conditions and the ever-shifting urgency of demand, and the possibilities of the James River in this respect are many times a great as the present development. Beginning within the corporation limits of this city and extending up the river for 30 miles is a succession of falls aggregating 160 feet, and it is merely a matter of the multiplication of dams to make the current of that historic stream furnish many thousands of horse-power more than is now being utilized. Within the city limits are four or five dams, diverting portions of the water to races on either side, thus furnishing direct power for various operations. The city owns some of this power development, a portion of which it uses in running the pumps of its water plant, while another portion is used in generating electricity for municipal lighting purposes. The Virginia Railway & Power Co. is the owner of a large share of these developments, and furnishes to many customers either water-power converted into electricity or the current from its races that will develop power. It is the policy of this company to furnish ample power for such manufacturing plants as may wish to locate in Richmond, and with the increase in demand it will either further develop its water-power holdings to make use of the potentiality now running to waste, or will add to the capacity of the steam plant which it is already operating in the city. No applying industrial establishment will be left powerless, so to speak.

With this great advantage of cheap power, with its ample railroad and waterway facilities, with its nearness to raw material supplies, with the constantly increasing growth of the South, and its constantly increasing demand for more manufactured articles, and with the unconquerable determination of her business men and capitalists to achieve primacy in commercial and industrial matters, it seems that Richmond has just begun to

grow, and that what has been done, much as it seems, as not so much an illustration of actual achievement as it is an earnest of what can be achieved and what the future will witness.

While there are inviting opportunities here for the establishment of new manufacturing plants of many kinds, it is felt that the opening is especially good for concerns engaged in making buggies, carriages, wagons, automobiles, pianos, furniture, paper, soap and brooms. Many others could be added to that list, but these are regarded as probably most in demand just at present.

Next to her manufacturing industries, Richmond's wholesale interests probably occupy the most important place with respect to the general public. These employ a total capital of \$13,225,237, and the sales in 1910 aggregated \$71,490,718. The greater portion of this business is done in the following lines:

Groceries, confectioneries, liquors, tobacco, cigars, cigarettes, provisions, boots and shoes, dry goods and notions, coal, wood, hay, seeds, nursery stock, drugs, licorice, flavoring extracts, hardware, agricultural implements, railway, mill and plumbing supplies, bicycles, automobiles, rubber and sporting goods, oils, paints, varnish, glass, leather, hides, saddlery, tanbark, stoves, tin, china, earthenware, books, stationery, paper, furniture, carpets, upholstery, pianos, organs and other musical instruments and musical goods.

This great trade is secured chiefly from the south, and is due to the liberal policy which Richmond merchants deal with their patrons, and the energy and activity of the army of travelers who carry the flag of Richmond commerce, no less than to the excellent means enjoyed for reaching the business centers of that territory. It is the result of a fine combination of personal enterprise and transportation facilities.

A number of matters now in course of consummation will, it is thought, add materially to the opportunities for doing business profitably in Richmond. Among these is a railroad now being built from a connection with this city into the five wealthy, populous and productive Virginia counties forming what is known as the "Northern Neck." This will bring within three hours' ride of Richmond 70,000 people who have heretofore done their chief trading elsewhere owing to the fact that communication was easier than with this city. It is believed that the new road will turn a considerable portion, possibly half, of that trade to this city. There are 700 country stores and 10,000 farms in the territory thus sought to be bound to Richmond, and it is thought trade amounting to \$2,500,000 will be secured to the city by building the road. The people of Richmond recently subscribed \$75,000 to aid in its construction, and it is expected that it will be completed within three years. In addition to the present trade of the "Northern Neck," the construction of a railroad into that section will doubtless cause a rapid growth, so that the returns will be even larger than anticipated.

Negotiations that have been in progress for some time in looking to building a traction line from this city to Urbanna a point 30 miles distant, on the Rappahannock River, are reported to be nearly completed, and it is felt that the road will unquestionably be built. The section through which it will pass has been sadly in need of facilities for reaching this city, and the proposed traction line will do much to develop the country and increase its trade with Richmond.

Richmond, by the way, having been the first city to successfully operate a trolley car, has much faith in it as a developer of outlying territory and a builder of trade, and believes that the most potential factor in city growth

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is a good system of suburban and interurban railways. It is claimed by people here who know, that no city in the country of like size has a better system or more of such railways than Richmond. Seven suburban and interurban electric lines enter Richmond, and the effect they have exerted and still exert upon its progress and prosperity cannot be estimated. One of these is a splendid line between this city and Petersburg, a distance of something more than 20 miles. It gives service almost beyond criticism, and is not only an effective helper of both cities, but is rapidly building up the intervening country.

Inside the city of Richmond the street car service is of such high order that the people universally take pride and pleasure in calling the attention of visitors and strangers to it, and most of them are ready to assert that it is not surpassed by that rendered in any city anywhere. The relations of the company owning the electric lines—the Virginia Railway & Power Co.—and the city are cordial, and each is ready to help the other, realizing that in doing so it takes an effective way of

in business as may come than to helping bring it. One of these is a new bridge across the James between Richmond and what was formerly Manchester, but is now South Richmond, and a part of the greater municipality. The new viaduct is being erected on the site of old Mayo's bridge, an ancient structure that was operated for many years as a toll bridge, but was finally purchased by the city and has been torn down to make way for the new structure. This will be a reinforced concrete structure, 60 feet in width, and will cost \$250,000. Another bridge will be constructed shortly between these two sections of the city, the demands of traffic being so great that they cannot be adequately met by one crossing. Plans and bids have already been asked for the construction of the second bridge.

The city owns the water-works and gas plant, and has also an electric-light and power plant of its own. In fact, it has two distinct water plants, each capable of working independent of the other, and each with capacity to pump more water than the city needs. Such an ar-



MONUMENT AVENUE.

helping itself. The city receives  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. of the company's earnings, while the patrons of its lines get six tickets for a quarter, with universal transfers, and school children and working people get tickets, good between certain hours, for  $2\frac{1}{2}$  cents apiece.

The city has constructed a public wharf on James River, operated by the municipality, the owner and operator of the Richmond Dock, long owned by a private company. This insures adequate terminal facilities for all water-borne commerce at reasonable cost. This action is taken also to meet the requirements of Congress, recently promulgated, that Government appropriations for interior waterway development will only be made where adequate terminal facilities are publicly owned and operated, so as to insure shippers against private control. Other matters under consideration with respect to increasing the facilities for shipment of freight by water will doubtless be properly worked out within a short time, and the result will be, it is hoped, a largely-increased impetus in general business.

Other plans in contemplation and in progress of consummation will serve to help this impetus. Some of these look rather to properly caring for such increase

in supply, such as is frequently occasioned in cities having but a single plant by the breaking down of some part of its machinery. The pumps and machinery of both these plants are operated by water-power from the river.

The municipal government of the city is honest and progressive, and has the confidence of the people to a high degree. The officials are thoroughly awake to the possibilities of the city, and are swift to take advantage of any opportunity that offers for helping it in its progress. The growth of the city since 1900 to 1910 was 50 per cent., and it now has a population of 127,668. Its area is but 11 square miles, and it is therefore the most densely populated city of its size in the United States, with the single exception of Paterson, N. J. It has close by suburban population of 10,000.

Just now there is great activity in building, and the record for 1911, which is the highest ever made by the city, stands in danger of being eclipsed. In that year the buildings constructed aggregated a cost of \$1,000,000, an increase of 50 per cent. over the year before, when they totaled \$4,000,000. The most impressive building now

under way is that of the First National Bank. This structure will be 19 stories above ground, the tallest building south of New York and east of the Mississippi. It is being constructed of materials both substantial and ornamental, and will be one of the handsomest buildings to be seen anywhere. Other large and handsome structures are under way in various parts of the city, while still others have but recently been completed, and many more are to be begun with the opening of spring. Altogether the business sections of the city present the appearance of a thoroughly modern municipality, and one substantially built as well. Many street improvements are in progress also, and the stranger visiting Richmond for the first time is much impressed by the activity in evidence on every hand.

The Chamber of Commerce of Richmond, well officered and well directed, is one of the most aggressive bodies of the kind to be found in the entire south, and is a potential factor in advancing the material interests of the community. Its members are active and devoted, and give much of their time to carrying out the objects of the organization. Just now the body is about to build a new home in which will also be established a Manufacturers' Exhibit. There will be gathered together in this building articles of every kind manufactured in the city, so that the visitor can see within the limits of a comparatively short visit just what is being accomplished in the various lines of manufacture. The exhibit will be permanent.

The great banking capital of Richmond is one of the sources of its immense commercial and industrial strength. The banks have money, and the bankers are not afraid to let it go for any substantial business, and therefore many large enterprises are financed by home money instead of having to go abroad for capital. A leading business man said a day or two ago that, whereas any proposition calling for \$50,000 or more would a few years ago have been com-

pelled to go elsewhere for financing, similar propositions calling for hundreds of thousands could now be financed in Richmond without outside help. This is, of course, a tremendous asset, for it is easier to demonstrate a local proposition to a local man than to a stranger, and when home money stands behind home enterprises those enterprises have the moral as well as the financial support of the owners of the money.

The bold active men of Richmond have not been satisfied to build up their own city merely, but have been leaders in many enterprises throughout other sections of the South, helping to construct railroads, establish manufacturing industries and build cities. They have felt that their city should be the business capital of the country to the south of it, as it was formerly its political capital, and have devoted much of their time and energy and invested much of their money to make it such. Having been successful in accumulating large private fortunes—for there are many millionaires in Richmond—they feel like using them in developing the wonderland of riches known as the South, to the end that opportunities for amassing fortunes may be opened up to the thousands of Southern people.

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